

percent last month, certified, illegals coming across the border were detained and held to be returned to their country of origin, and the word is out. That is a tremendous deterrent, and the numbers are way down of people coming across the border. The fence below San Diego, two tiered, is making a big difference. The National Guard is making a difference. Billions of dollars having been spent is making a difference. As you heard the gentleman from New Jersey say, our ports are more secure. And most importantly, we are in the intelligence business again because that is why we failed prior to September 11.

And I want to close with this for our troops: John Stuart Mill said this: "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things." He said: "The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse." He said: "The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of ever being free unless those very freedoms are made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

And those people are our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. And we hail them and thank them for their courage and their sacrifice.

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#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6061, SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006

Mr. SESSIONS (during Special Order of Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-653) on the resolution (H. Res. 1002) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6061) to establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF H. Res. 1000, PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING REFORM IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SESSIONS (during Special Order of Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-654) on the resolution (H. Res. 1003) providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 1000) providing for earmarking reform in the House of Representatives, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON RULES TO HAVE UNTIL 2 A.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2006, TO FILE REPORT ON H. Res. 1000, PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING REFORM IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SESSIONS (during Special Order of Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.) Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules have until 2 a.m. on September 14, 2006, to file their report to accompany House Resolution 1000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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#### THE 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor coming before the House once again, and I must say that I am excited about being here tonight. It is another great day in this great country of ours.

And as you know, the 30-something Working Group, we come to the floor to share with the American people, not just Democrats but Republicans, Independents, those that are thinking about voting, those that have been turned off by political processes who are thinking about being engaged in the political process once again.

To those Americans who are not registered to vote, I would encourage them to register to vote. They can still vote in the upcoming November elections because there is a lot being said on the floor, Mr. Speaker, and we talked last night, the 30-something Working Group. We took 2 hours last night talking about the initiatives that we have with our Real Security Plan, talking about the memory and the sacrifice of those that gave their lives on 9/11 and those that are still living with the effects of 9/11, whether it be losing a family member or a first responder or someone that worked in the World Trade Center or was around the plane going down in Pennsylvania or the Pentagon here in Washington, D.C., those that are still living through it.

Today we had a resolution on the floor, Mr. Speaker, that dealt with addressing the memory of those that lost their lives on 9/11 and things that we have to do. The Republican majority found it fit to kind of put in a resolution about some things that they thought that they accomplished as it relates to making America safer. Some of that I join with them on as an American and as a Member of Congress, but a lot of it has not been achieved.

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We have the 9/11 Commission Report that came out that said that we have

to not only inspect 100 percent of cargo containers that are on ships and 100 percent of those cargo containers that go in the bellies of airplanes that are flying throughout the United States of America, it is still not accomplished today. We still have a dismal amount of Border Patrol officers to protect American borders. Democrats, we have asked for 2,000 Border Patrol officers; the President's budget request to this Congress was only 215 or 216 Border Patrol officers.

Now, the Republican majority can come to the floor night after night, day after day, do 5-minute speeches, 1-minute speeches, or take a special order and talk a good game. But I used to be a football player, Mr. Speaker, I played for Florida A&M Rattlers. I was an outside linebacker. And before the game, you would read all about what the other team is saying and all of the talking and taunting. And then you have folks that tailgate before the game, and the bus would roll in and they would talk about what they are going to do to us, and then the coach would talk about how better the other team is. But it really doesn't count until that whistle blows and that kick-off takes place and that you have an opportunity to get out there and hit somebody. And when you hit somebody and when you run the ball down the field and you end up winning the game, all of that talk was for naught.

But what is unfortunate about this situation, even though I use that analogy, Mr. Speaker, this is not a game, this is for real. This is flesh and blood. This is flesh and blood. And the bottom line is, is that one can come to the floor and talk about, well, you know, Democrats and this, that, and the other, and they are holding us back. What are we holding the Republican majority back from, Mr. Speaker? That is what I want to know. That is the prevailing question here.

The bottom line, the Republicans in this House have been in this control for double digit years. So who is holding them back? Now, let's talk a little bit about control. I want to make sure that every Member understands what control and majority means.

The majority means that any amendment, any bill, any appropriations that you want funded will be funded because you are in the majority. You have more numbers than the Democrats do at this particular time in the House.

Why are the American people saying that they want change? Why are the American people saying that they want to move in a new direction? They want to move in a new direction because they want accountability. They want oversight. They want Article I, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution to be adhered to. They want to make sure that their vote counts here in the U.S. House of Representatives. Right now, it is just a lot of talk. And I can tell you, as a Member of the House and someone that studies what happens here on this floor and what does not happen here on this